Mailer Technology Advisory Council (MTAC)
Meeting Report
08/5/2014 1:30 PM - 2:30 PM

WORK GROUP 164 (WG164) SESSION

AGENDA

1. Welcome and introductions
2. Administrative actions for the WG
3. Review of the WG Issue Statement
4. Develop workplan
5. Any Other Business

DISCUSSION POINTS

The purpose of this meeting is to provide an ongoing forum to facilitate communications between the Postal Service and users, define and review improvements in process/production functionality and address and resolve issues.

Attendees

Tony Allighen	Angelo Anagnostopoulos	Lisa Bowes
Ed Conrad	Jody Dayton	Charley Howard
Dennis Kaylor	Dave Meyers	Himesh Patel
David Propst	Mark Rheame	Bob Rosser
Tracy Sikes	Paula Stoskopf	

Administrative Actions
- Meeting frequency will initially be each week on Tuesdays from 1:30 to 2:30pm.
- Himesh will work to setup UG-164 site on MITS.
- Paula Stoskopf volunteered to assist in recording meeting minutes.

Workplan Development
- Four levels of data provisioning today:
  - Piece-level – IMb Tracing
  - Bundle Visibility – via PostalOne! and IMb Tracing
  - Handling Unit – PostalOne!
  - Container Visibility – PostalOne!

- The group agreed that piece-level and bundle visibility is a better fit for UG4 than WG164. WG164 will focus on handling unit and container visibility.
- The group indicated that for the data to be valuable to the mailing industry, container scans must be provisioned sooner than piece-level data. Once mailers begin receiving piece-level "hits" on their mail the value of the container scan is greatly diminished.
- Lisa Bowes pointed to some of the improvements that ACS has made in improving the timeliness of ACS information and suggested that we look at what was done there. A subsequent discussion with Lisa West revealed that the new Single-Source ACS option uses the MID on the piece to quickly provision ACS records. Mailers must enroll in their MID in the Single-Source ACS program and by doing so they agree to incur charges for any non-FS pieces. This allows NCSC to provide the ACS record immediate. Typically Full-Service gets ACS records from NCSC and then must reconcile the pieces with eDoc and validate that they are FS pieces qualifying for free ACS. This processing/reconciliation adds a layer of complexity and is the source of the "delay".
- Himesh will have SMEs from some of the key USPS data systems on the next call to discuss what is

possible. Himesh indicated that some of the latency comes about as a result of the existing business rules for data provisioning. He pointed to PostalOne! as being focused on financial transactions and reconciliation whereas IMb Tracing is picking up live scans and forwarding them based on the MID in the barcode.
- Bob Rosser – Would be nice to see a data model/flowchart that shows what systems capture and handle mail visibility data. Need to see the handoffs and the latencies associate with the transfer.

Issues Identified
- *ISSUE:* Tracy Sikes reporting that he is still seeing latency in IMb Tracing piece-level scans. He receives data every 4 hours and the assumption is that scans would show up on the next report; however, scans are sometimes delayed and show up on subsequent reports. This issue has previously been discussed in MTAC UG4.

Any Other Business
- None